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1. An information transmission method for transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:

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outputting the retrieved "how-treated-in-source

information" as layout information to the user;

receiving from the user a specification of the information that should be transmitted to the user base upon the layout information; and

5 transmitting the specified information.

3. The information transmission method according Claim 1, wherein

10 said information showing how the information is treated in an information source is information showing the position in the information source and an importance degree in the information source.

15 4. The information transmission method according Claim 2, wherein

said information showing how the information is treated in an information source is information showing the position in the information source and the importance degree in the information source.

20 5. An information receiving method for receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising:

25 outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that a user is likely to

require;

receiving from the external party information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information;

receiving a specification of the information that the user decides is necessary based on the layout information; and

requesting the external party to transmit the specified information to the user.

6. The information receiving method according Claim 5, wherein,

said information showing how the information is treated in an information source is information showing a position in the information source and an importance degree in the information source.

7. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer capable of transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising the steps of:

outputting to the user information showing how the information that meets the requirements of the user is treated in an information source as layout information;

12. An information receiving apparatus capable of receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising:

5 a request output unit for outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;

10 a layout information receiving unit for receiving from the external party information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information; and

a transmission request unit for requesting the external party to transmit the information that the user decides is necessary.

15 13. An information transmission method for transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:

adding information showing how each piece of information is treated in an information source;

20 reading the information showing the "how-treated-in-source information" and outputting said information as layout information to the user;

receiving a specification of the information from the user based on the layout information; and

25 transmitting the specified information to the user.

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14. An information transmission apparatus capable of transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user, comprising:

5 information retrieval means for retrieving information showing how the information that meets the requirements of the user is treated in the information source;

10 layout information output means for outputting to the user the retrieved "how-treated-in-source information" as layout information; and

information transmission means for transmitting to the user the requested information based on the layout information.

15 15. An information receiving apparatus capable of receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising:

20 request output means for outputting to the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;

layout information receiving means for receiving from the external party information showing how the information that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout information; and

25 transmission request means for requesting the

external party to transmit the information that the user
decides is necessary.

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